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REMARKS

- 1. This is the first Preliminary Amendment filed in this application.
- 2. Claims 1-67 were originally presented in this application. By the foregoing Amendments, claims 3, 5-8, 10-12, 14-17, 22-28, 32-33, 38-39, 44-48, 51-52, 54, 56, 57, and claims 61-63 have been amended. Claims 2, 4, 9, 13, 18-20, 29-31, 34-37, 40-42, 49-50 53, 55, 58-60, and 64-67 have been cancelled. No claims have been added. Thus, upon entry of this paper, claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10-12, 14-17, 21-28, 32-33, 38-39, 43-48, 51-52, 54, 56-57, and 61-63 will be pending in this application. Of these 39 claims, three (3) claims (claims 1, 21, and 43) are independent.

Amendments to the Specification

3. The specification has been amended to correct minor errors. The amendments to the specification do not introduce new matter.

Amendments to the Drawings

4. The replacement drawings conform to U.S. practice.

Amendments to the Claims

5. Applicants have amended the claims in accordance to 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(i).

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CONCLUSION

6. It is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after entering this paper into the record, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicants' representative at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Michael G. Verga, Esq. Registration No. 39,410

Tel. (703) 563-2005

JAGTIANI + GUTTAG
Democracy Square Business Center
10363-A Democracy Lane
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
703-591-2664

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